

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1-4 are pending.

Claim 1 has been amended in a manner believed to render moot the rejections under 35 USC 112.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Steele in view of Nachenberg.

The rejection is respectfully traversed. With respect to claim 1, Steele describes repairing a vulnerability in an underlying physical system component (MDC), making a new image, and then using the new image as the master image. Steele at [0059] – [0060]. Repairing a vulnerability in a physical system and then making a new image of the repaired system, as taught by Steele, is not the same as manipulating a configuration setting *within a virtual environment* through which access to image data has been provided by emulating “a running system of which the file comprises a system file and the configuration setting comprises a system configuration setting,” as recited in claim 1 as amended. Support for the amendments to claim 1 is found, without limitation, in the present application at page 7, lines 18-23; page 9, lines 13-22; page 10, line 22 – page 11, line 4; page 16, lines 19-22; and page 17, lines 15-18.

Nachenberg describes detecting a virus within a virtual machine via which access to an infected file is provided and repairing the file within the virtual environment; however, manipulating a file within a virtual environment is not the same as providing access to a configuration database portion of an image data in a manner that allows a configuration setting stored in the configuration database to be modified, as disclosed in the present application and recited in claim 1. As such, claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

The foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission of unpatentability of any of the claims prior to the amendments.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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